

2001-014-528

June 14, 2001

General Services Administration
FAR Secretariat (MVP)
1800 F Street, NW Room 4035
Washington, DC 20405

RE: FAR Case 2001-014

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my opposition to the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council's proposal to repeal the Clinton administration's rules on federal contractor responsibility. The rules require contracting officers to look at a company's record of complying with the law in deciding whether the company is a "responsible contractor" eligible to receive a federal contract.

A company's track record of complying with the law should be an important factor in deciding whether the company deserves a federal contract. Companies that routinely disregard worker safety and health, fail to pay minimum wages and overtime as required by the law, or violate other laws providing fundamental protections to workers shouldn't be rewarded with federal contracts. That's unfair to companies that *do* comply with the law and allows violators to profit from their lawbreaking.

Federal contracts should go to responsible, law-abiding companies, not to corporate lawbreakers. I urge the FAR Council *not* to repeal the contractor responsibility rules and to let the rules go into effect without further delay.

Sincerely yours,

Francisco J. Tavares

Laborers' Local Union No. 385